***Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*** Pre-Reading Project

In order to read this book, you need to have some historical and geographical knowledge. While Debbie and I have done a wonderful job teaching you about history, there are some things we have not taught you so you need to do this project in order to understand the book better. Answer all of the questions in a report format.

1. Research slavery. In your report answer the following questions: Which were the slave states? Which were the free states? How was it determined that a new state would be free or slave? What reasons did slave states give for justifying their need for slaves? How was slavery one of the issues that led to the Civil War?
2. Research the dialects of American English. What are the major dialects? How do dialects arise?
3. Using an atlas or other reference, locate the Mississippi River. How long is it? What states does it border? Research the Mississippi of the 1830s (about the time the novel takes place) and compare how the river was used then to the way it is used today.